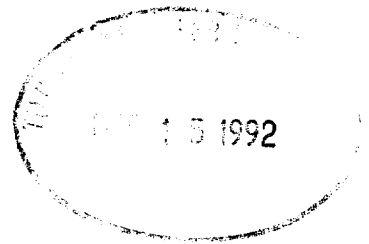


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9212.13 Sunday

Dear Josh,

Now that I've read and relished the latest batch of items from the Lederberg Lab, I urge you (once again?) to collect your occasional pieces on science, technology, and society for publication in a separate volume designed for that not-at-all-mythic audience of "general readers."

The reason? You invariably say much in little about fundamental questions centered on the ways of scientific inquiry and the place of science in society and culture that interest, and often confuse, the intelligent lay reader. So it is that the most recent Newsletter alerts your friends of the lab to the central place of 'socially organized skepticism' in science and provides a succinct and telling formulation of the ultimate dependence of major technologies on basic science. Just as your piece on "the interface of science and medicine" tellingly informs readers through its "'can of worms' model" that, contrary to their probable assumptions, science does not always develop in strictly unilinear fashion (just as our old friend Laurence Sterne reminded us was the case with his personal style of writing).

All of which is simply to ask that you keep sending us your collateral writings and to seize the occasion to wish Marguerite, Annie, David, and your own amiable self the best of all Channukah-Christmas seasons. At this very moment (5:45 a.m.), Harriet comes by, learns what I am up to, and of course insists on having her best wishes combined with those of

Your quite old friend,

MSL